

As indicated above, the specification has been amended in order to update the status of the parent application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner approves the correction.

Claims 16-22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 5,813,972.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over the claims of the parent application. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that a restriction dated September 16, 1997, Paper No. 7 was issued in the parent application in which the Examiner required Applicants to elect between claims 1-15 a medical perfusion device or claims 16-17 directed to an adapter pod. It is respectfully submitted that the restriction by the Examiner prevents claims 16-22 from being rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 16-22 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting.

Claims 16, 18 and 21 claim an adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system having a data communications network with a plurality of connection points each having a substantially identical network connector. The adapter pod comprises a common connector, a device connector and a controller or means for generating messages in the form of digital data packets. The common connector is adapted to be connected to one of the network connectors and has a connector configuration. The device connector is adapted to be connected with a perfusion device and has a connector configuration which is

different than the connector configuration of the common connector. The controller or means is adapted to generate messages in the form of digital data packets.

Through the structure of the present invention having a common connector, a device connector and a controller means as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21, the present invention provides an adapter pod in which it is easy to convert a perfusion system designed for one purpose into a perfusion system usable for a different purpose. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the structure of an adapter pod as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21.

Claims 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dais et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,213) in view of Omori (U.S. Patent No. 5,820,414).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

Dais et al. appears to disclose process control which takes place especially in motor vehicles, industrial robots, medical monitoring and analyzing apparatus, elevator systems and the like. In recent years, the data exchange for this process control between the individual opened-loop and closed-loop control units have taken place increasingly with the aid of methods for serial data exchange. A method is provided for operating a data-processing system as well as a method for structuring messages which is flexible with respect to the particular requirements. The method affords the advantage with respect to the state of the art that within one and the same bus system messages having identifiers of

different lengths can be transmitted consistently and free of interaction with one and the same protocol. A unit typically interrogates, of all other units, their state and error conditions. The allocation of all the messages required therefor to a common storage region whose size permits the storage precisely of the largest of these messages can then be especially simply organized when all identifiers of the affected messages in the corresponding bit positions correspond to each other beginning with the first bit of the shorter identifier of the triggering message up to the last bit. The bits of the long identifiers of the return messages not fixed in this way, for example, can be used to code individual features of the units, such as their names or addresses.

Thus, Dais et al. is merely directed to a method for structuring messages. Although the method of structuring messages of Dais et al. can be applied to a medical system, nothing in Dais et al. shows, teaches or suggests an adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system. In particular nothing in Dias et al. shows, teaches or suggests an adapter pod having a common connector connected to a network connector and having a connector configuration, a device connector connected to a perfusion device and having a different connector configuration and a controller or means for generating messages in the form of digital data packets as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21. Rather, Dais et al. is merely directed to a method for structuring messages to exchange data between data processing systems.

Omori appears to disclose an IC card adapter including a main connector to provided on a side of a body while a plurality of sub-connectors 3A, 3B are provided on the reverse side. The main-connector 2 is for obtaining an electrical connection with an

equipment (e.g. a personal computer) in which the IC card 1 is used. On the other hand, sub-connectors 3A, 3B are for obtaining electrical connection with adapters. The IC card 1 includes a frame pod made of plastic which forms an outer shape of a card body, and an electrical circuit board 6 in which prescribed electronic components 7 included semiconductor circuits are incorporated, and, a main-connector 2 and the sub-connectors 3A, 3B are mounted at a front end portion and a rear end portion of the electric circuit board 6 respectively. A IC card adapter 11 to be used by connecting to the IC card 1 includes a plurality of adapter-side main-connectors 12A, 12B (primary connectors) to be respectively coupled with the sub-connectors 3A, 3B of an IC card 1 and are provided on a side of the adapter 11. On the other hand, one or a plurality of adapter-side sub-connectors 13 are provided on the reverse side. To this adapter-side sub-connector 13, a connector 19 with a cable is connected, and at another end of the cable 19A of the connector 19, for example a connector (not shown) to be connected electrically to a telephone circuit is provided.

The IC card adapter 11 includes a frame 15, and an electric circuit board 16 in which prescribed electronic components 17 are incorporated. The electric circuit board 16 mounted with the electronic components form an adapter module 18 which has a telephone function including a speaker function and a microphone function which is different from the function which the IC card 1 has possessed primarily.

Thus, Omori merely discloses an IC card including an electric circuit board 6 including electronic components 7 and an IC card adapter 11 connected to the IC card 1. Nothing in Omori shows, teaches or suggests that the adapter 11 includes a controller or

means to generate messages in the form of digital data packets as claimed in claim 16, 18 and 21. Furthermore, nothing in Omori shows, teaches or suggests that the adapter 11 is for use in a medical perfusion system having a data communication network with a plurality of connection points each having a substantially identical network connector as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21. Rather, Omori merely discloses an IC card adapter which allows expansion or improvements of the functions of an IC card.

Also, Omori merely discloses an adapter module 18 having a telephone function. Nothing in Omori shows, teaches or suggests an adapter for use in a medical perfusion system as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21.

A combination of Dais et al. and Omori would not have been possible since Dais et al. is directed to a method of structuring messages for exchange while Omori is directed to an adapter for a telecommunication system. Nothing in the combination shows, teaches or suggests an adapter pod for use in a medical perfusion system having the structure as claimed in claims 16, 18 and 21. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 16, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 17, 19-20 and 22 depend from claims 16, 18 and 21 and recite additional features. It is respectfully submitted that claims 17, 19-20 and 22 would not have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Dais et al. and Omori at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 17, 19-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the present invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set short and statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time, the fees for such an extension of time may be charged to our deposit account number 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge deposit account number 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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